

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) Method for preparing an aqueous peptide extract of maca, comprising enzymatically hydrolyzing proteins of a powder of ground maca tubers to form an aqueous peptide extract, and purifying the aqueous peptide extract by ultrafiltration.
2. (Withdrawn) Method for preparing a hydrosoluble peptide extract of maca tubers as in claim 1, wherein hydrolysis is conducted with an amylase and protease mixture.
3. (Withdrawn) Method for preparing a hydrosoluble peptide extract of maca tubers as in claim 2, wherein the amylase/protease ratio varies between 50/50 and 90/10.
4. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 1, characterized in that the aqueous extract is then concentrated to remove insolubles.
5. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 1, wherein ultrafiltration has a cut-off threshold of 10 kD.
6. (Currently Amended) Aqueous peptide extract of maca obtained using [[the]] a method in claim 1 comprising enzymatically hydrolyzing proteins of a powder of maca tubers to form an aqueous peptide extract and purifying the aqueous peptide extract by ultrafiltration, wherein hydrolysis is conducted with an amylase and protease mixture.
7. (Previously Presented) Aqueous peptide extract of maca as in claim 6, wherein the dry matter content is between 1 and 300 g/l.
8. (Withdrawn) Method for preparing a solid peptide extract of maca, characterized in that the aqueous peptide extract as in claim 6, optionally concentrated and/or sterilised, is freeze-dried.

9. (Withdrawn) Solid peptide extract of maca obtained using the method as in claim 8.

10. (Withdrawn) Solid peptide extract of maca as in claim 9, wherein the content of alpha amino nitrogen lies between 2 and 70 %.

11. (Withdrawn) Solid peptide extract of maca as in claim 9, wherein the amino acid composition is of the following weight percentage with respect to the total weight of the amino acids:

Alanine	5-9 %
Arginine	15-20 %
Aspartic acid	8-12 %
Cystine-cysteine	< 2 %
Glutamic acid	9-15 %
Glycine	3-7 %
Histidine	1-6 %
Isoleucine	2-7 %
Leucine	4-9 %
Lysine	3-7 %
Methionine	1-5 %
Phenylalanine	4.9 %
Proline	< 1 %
Serine	2-8 %
Threonine	1-7 %
Tyrosine	1-7 %
Valine	4-10 %
Tryptophane	< 0.5 %

12. (Previously Presented) Peptide extract of maca as in claim 6, which can be used to stimulate the proliferation and growth of skin cells and more particularly of fibroblasts.

13. (Previously Presented) Peptide extract of maca as in claim 6, which can be used to stimulate the mitochondrial activity of skin cells and more particularly of the fibroblasts.

14. (Previously Presented) Cosmetic composition comprising a peptide extract of maca as in claim 6, and at least one cosmetically acceptable excipient.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of preventing and or combating skin ageing, consisting of applying to the skin a composition as in claim 14.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of combating outside aggressions chosen from sun, tobacco, pollution and stress consisting of applying to the skin a composition as in claim 14.

17 - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) A method of combating loss of tonicity and/or elasticity of the skin and/or to the onset of senescence pigment blemishes comprising administering the extract of claim 6.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of stimulating proliferation and growth of skin cells and fibroblasts comprising administering the extract of claim 9.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of stimulating mitochondrial activity of skin cells and fibroblasts comprising administering the extract of claim 9.

23. (Withdrawn) A cosmetic composition comprising a peptide extract of maca as in claim 9 and at least one cosmetically acceptable excipient.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing the effects of ageing comprising administering the extract of claim 6.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of combating the loss of tonicity and/or elasticity of the skin and/or to combat the onset of senescence pigment blemishes comprising administering the extract of claim 9.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of combating and/or preventing skin ageing, consisting of applying to the skin a composition as in claim 23.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of combating aggressions chosen from sun, tobacco, pollution and stress consisting of applying to the skin a composition as in claim 23.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein cell metabolism is stimulated.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein metabolism of dermal fibroblasts is stimulated.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein cell energy is stimulated.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein cell metabolism is stimulated.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein metabolism of dermal fibroblasts is stimulated.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein cell energy is stimulated.